

Macomb Co. tries to ease jury duty burden

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There's the lucrative pay -- \$25 per day for the first day; \$40 for subsequent days. There's the generous reimbursement of 10 cents for each mile driven for the cause. And there's the mental stimulation of shifting uncomfortably in a chair while waiting to be called.

It's hard to say exactly why some Macomb County residents are less than ecstatic when that pink summons for 4 days of jury duty lands in their mailbox. But County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh aims to ease it by trying a "one day/one trial" system of jury duty in its place.

The first summonses for the system, approved recently for a test run in November and December, were mailed Wednesday. The change isn't expected to cost taxpayers any money, and could help make doing one's civic duty a more enjoyable experience.

"It's going to be so great for the public," Sabaugh said. "If you're summoned for jury duty now, you have to come in for four days, and that's a real hardship on a lot of people."

Trials don't begin on Mondays.

If all goes as expected with the test -- Sabaugh expects it to become permanent in January.

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